

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

In light of the recent collapse of Enron, we need to be more cautious than ever about having too much of a critical industry concentrated under one corporation's control. Beyond my concerns about problems with the availability and diversity of information should further concentration of the media be allowed, I worry also about what might happen should one of these mega corporations fail.

Even as things stand today, if AOL-Time-Warner were to go under today it would be a serious problem for the country as a whole. If anything steps should be taken to head off this problem, rather than to allow its potential magnitude to grow. As a concerned citizen I ask that the existing cable ownership not only be maintained, but that work begin to strengthen our country's media by dividing and diversifying it.